
SENATE BILL 5957

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senators Orwall, Hasegawa, Nobles, and C. Wilson

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1 AN ACT Relating to the office of homeless youth prevention and
2 protection programs advisory committee; and amending RCW 43.330.705.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.330.705 and 2019 c 124 s 5 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) There is created the office of homeless youth prevention and
7 protection programs within the department.

8 (2) Activities of the office of homeless youth prevention and
9 protection programs must be carried out by a director of the office
10 of homeless youth prevention and protection programs, supervised by
11 the director of the department or his or her designee.

12 (3) The office of homeless youth prevention and protection
13 programs is responsible for leading efforts under this subchapter to
14 coordinate a spectrum of ongoing and future funding, policy, and
15 practice efforts related to homeless youth and improving the safety,
16 health, and welfare of homeless youth in this state.

17 (4) The measurable goals of the office of homeless youth
18 prevention and protection programs are to: (a) Measurably decrease
19 the number of homeless youth and young adults by identifying programs
20 that address the initial causes of homelessness, and (b) measurably
21 increase permanency rates among homeless youth by decreasing the

1 length and occurrences of youth homelessness caused by a youth's
2 separation from family or a legal guardian.

3 (5) The office of homeless youth prevention and protection
4 programs shall (a) gather data and outcome measures, (b) initiate
5 data-sharing agreements, (c) develop specific recommendations and
6 timelines to address funding, policy, and practice gaps within the
7 state system for addressing the five key components in RCW
8 43.330.700, (d) make reports, (e) increase system integration and
9 coordinate efforts to prevent state systems from discharging youth
10 and young adults into homelessness, (f) develop measures to include
11 by county and statewide the number of homeless youth, dependency
12 status, family reunification status, housing status, program
13 participation, and runaway status, and (g) develop a comprehensive
14 plan to encourage identification of youth experiencing homelessness,
15 promote family stability, and eliminate youth and young adult
16 homelessness.

17 (6)(a) The office of homeless youth prevention and protection
18 programs shall regularly consult with an advisory committee,
19 comprised of (~~advocates, at~~):

20 (i) Advocates;

21 (ii) At least two legislators(~~at~~);

22 (iii) At least two parent advocates(~~at~~);

23 (iv) At least two youth or young adult representatives(~~at~~);

24 (v) At least one representative from law enforcement(~~at~~
25 service));

26 (vi) Service providers(~~at~~);

27 (vii) At least two individuals over the age of 25 who experienced
28 homelessness or involvement with a publicly funded system of care as
29 defined in RCW 43.330.720 at some point while age 12 through 24;

30 (viii) At least two individuals who represent populations that
31 are disproportionately homeless or have experience in a publicly
32 funded system of care as defined in RCW 43.330.720 in the youth and
33 young adult population which includes but is not limited to
34 individuals with a tribal affiliation, people of color, and people
35 with a disability; and (~~other~~))

36 (ix) Other stakeholders knowledgeable in the provision of
37 services to homeless youth and young adults, including the prevention
38 of youth and young adult homelessness, the dependency system, and
39 family reunification(~~at for a total of twelve members~~)).

1 **(b)** The advisory committee shall provide guidance and
2 recommendations to the office of homeless youth prevention and
3 protection programs regarding funding, policy, and practice gaps
4 within and among state programs.

5 ~~((b))~~ **(c)** The advisory committee must be staffed by the
6 department.

7 ~~((e))~~ **(d)** The members of the advisory committee must be
8 appointed by the governor, except for the legislators who must be
9 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and the
10 president of the senate.

11 ~~((d) The advisory committee must have its initial meeting no
12 later than March 1, 2016.~~

13 ~~(7) The office of homeless youth prevention and protection
14 programs must be operational no later than January 1, 2016. Transfer
15 of powers, duties, and functions of the department of children,
16 youth, and families to the department of commerce pertaining to youth
17 homeless services and programs identified in RCW 43.330.710(2) may
18 occur before this date))~~

19 **(e)** A young adult serving on the advisory committee who turns age
20 25 during their term may complete their term on the advisory
21 committee even though they are age 25.

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